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Press Release



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Governor Hassan Announces Departure of Department of Environmental Services Commissioner Tom Burack

CONCORD – Governor Maggie Hassan today announced that New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Commissioner Tom Burack will step down in the next few months.

“Tom Burack has informed me that sometime within the next few months he intends to step down from his position as Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Services, a vital role that he will have served with distinction for more than a decade,” Governor Hassan said. “Under his leadership, the department has focused on combating the serious challenge of climate change and ensuring that New Hampshire citizens and visitors have access to clean air, water and land while providing excellent customer service – all of which is critical to our state’s economy and future success.”

“Tom has also led and facilitated a voluntary, informal network of state agency commissioners for eight years, helping to bring agencies together to improve the operations of and drive innovation and efficiency in state government,” Governor Hassan said. “He is a leader on the regional and national levels as well, including envisioning and co-leading an overall modernization of how environmental protection services are delivered nationwide through a joint state-tribal-federal initiative known as E-Enterprise for the Environment.”

“Serving as Commissioner of NHDES has been an extraordinary privilege and honor,” said Commissioner Burack. “I have decided that 10 years is the right length of time for me to serve in this role, and I am grateful to Governor Hassan for her understanding of my decision. I am considering a number of possibilities for what comes next in my professional life, and in the meantime I am excited about continuing my work at NHDES.”

Commissioner Burack will officially resign sometime in the next few months. Under state statute, NHDES Assistant Commissioner Clark Freise will serve as acting commissioner upon Burack’s departure and until a permanent commissioner is nominated by the next Governor and confirmed by the Executive Council.

“New Hampshire and our country have benefitted enormously from Tom’s vision, energy and leadership, and it will be difficult to see him depart,” Governor Hassan said. “On behalf of the people of New Hampshire, I thank Tom for his tireless dedication to protecting our environment and his immense contributions to our state that have helped make New Hampshire a special place to live, work, visit and raise a family. He has built a strong management team that will ensure a continuation of the department’s important work after he leaves, and I wish him all the best in the future.”

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